



Legislative Bulletin.....May 22, 2001

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H.R. 1696—To expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 1696— To expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia. (Stump [*Senator Stevens' substitute amendment*])

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, May 22nd. The House voted to suspend the rules and pass the Stump bill on May 15, 2001, by a vote of 400-15 (roll call #109). On May 21, 2001, Senator Stevens' amendment (S.AMDT 745) to provide a complete substitute was agreed to in the Senate by Unanimous Consent.

Summary: The substitute bill would require the World War II memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia to be "constructed expeditiously." No specific timeframe is given. Though the House-passed Stump bill states that all of the design and siting requirements have been met, the Stevens substitute only states that elements of the design and siting requirements that have not yet been met shall be "considered and approved" according to the Commemorative Works Act. And though the House-passed Stump bill states that the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 have been met, the Stevens substitute makes no such reference. The Stevens substitute would shield key decisions regarding the design and site of the monument from judicial review (effectively nullifying the pending lawsuit regarding the memorial), though the door would be left open for administrative review.

Additional Background: The World War II Memorial was authorized by Congress eight years ago. Construction has not yet begun because of a lawsuit pending from a local opposition group and because of procedural delays involving the National Capital Planning Commission, one of the agencies required to approve the Monument.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Stevens substitute authorizes no new funding.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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